

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/031,265

Applicant(s)

CARMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Michael P. Stafira

2877

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/10/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.  
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2 ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152).  
6 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
7 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
9 ☐ Other

Michael P. Stafira  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2877

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings were received on 10/10/2003. These drawings are approved by the examiner of record.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-24 are allowed over the prior art of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an illumination system in an inspection system having a light source for emitting light into the light input array, the optical fibers being adapted for propagating the light and emitting it from the light output array, the light output array being adapted for producing a light line that impinges on an inspection target comprising of wood, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 1. Claims 2, 4-13 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed 1.

Regarding claim 14, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method for detecting characteristics of lumber having first and second opposing surfaces having the step of employing a blinder which is positioned in proximity to the light output array and defining a blinder plane transverse to the lumber between first and second blinder sides such that the light output array is positioned on the first blinder side, top create a dark area on the first surface on the second blinder side and create a light area on the first surface on the first blinder side, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 14. Claims 15-20 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 14.

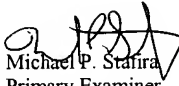
Regarding claim 21, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an illumination system in an inspection system having a blinder in proximity to the light output array to create a dark area on a surface of the target to facilitate detection of tracheid data by the image sensing system, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 21. Claims 22-24 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 703-308-4837. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10 Schedule Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 703-308-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

  
Michael P. Stafira  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2877